

1 ERIC GRANT  
2 United States Attorney  
3 R. ALEX CÁRDENAS  
4 Assistant United States Attorney  
5 501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
6 Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone: (916) 554-2700  
Facsimile: (916) 554-2900  
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8 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
9 United States of America

10  
11 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
12  
13 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

14 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

15 CASE NO. 2:23-CR-00165-KJM

16 Plaintiff,

17  
18 STIPULATION AND JOINT REQUEST FOR  
19 PROTECTIVE ORDER; [PROPOSED]  
20 PROTECTIVE ORDER

v.

21 ESTEBAN XAVIER MONROY,

22 Defendant.

23  
24 I. **STIPULATION**

25 1. Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, and defendant  
Esteban Xavier Monroy, by and through his counsel of record (“Defendant” and “Defense Counsel”),  
for the reasons set forth below, hereby stipulate, agree, and jointly request that the Court enter a  
Protective Order in this case restricting the use and dissemination of certain materials that could identify  
undercover agents and/or confidential sources, and/or that contain personal identifying information and  
other confidential information of real persons.

26 2. This Court may enter protective orders pursuant to Rule 16(d) of the Federal Rules of  
Criminal Procedure, Local Rule 141.1, and its general supervisory authority.

27 3. On July 6, 2023, the Grand Jury returned an Indictment charging possession with intent  
to distribute heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Count One), felon in possession of a firearm,

1 in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) (Count Two), and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug  
2 trafficking offense, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) (Count Three).

3       4. On February 6, 2025, the Grand Jury returned a Superseding Indictment charging  
4 possession with intent to distribute cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Count One), felon in  
5 possession of a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) (Count Two), and possession of a firearm  
6 in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) (Count Three).

7       5. The government intends to produce to Defense Counsel: (1) investigative reports and/or  
8 other documents that could identify law enforcement undercover agents and/or confidential sources; and  
9 (2) materials containing personal identifying information (“PII”) (as defined in E. D. Cal. L. R. 140(a),  
10 excluding information concerning the Defendant). Discovery containing the identities of undercover  
11 agents, the identities of law enforcement confidential sources, or PII will be considered “Protected  
12 Material” as described in this stipulation and order, and will collectively be referred to herein as  
13 “Protected Material.” Such Protected Material shall be identified by the government when it is produced  
14 to the defense, in a cover letter, or by a specially-designated Bates range, or through an email message.

15       6. Defense counsel shall not disclose any of the Protected Material or its contents directly or  
16 indirectly to any person other than their respective defendant/client, potential witnesses that they are  
17 interviewing or preparing for trial, counsel for those witnesses, or anyone employed by defense counsel  
18 (such as attorneys, paralegals, secretaries, experts, investigators, and law clerks) in connection with the  
19 representation of the defendant in this criminal case.

20       7. Defendant may view the Protected Material in the presence of defense counsel, but may  
21 not retain a copy or otherwise disseminate the contents.

22       8. The Protected Material may only be used in connection with the litigation of this case and  
23 for no other purpose.

24       9. If there is a substitution of counsel prior to final disposition of the case, new counsel of  
25 record must join this Protective Order before any protected discovery may be transferred from the  
26 undersigned defense counsel to the new defense counsel. New defense counsel will then become  
27 defense counsel for purposes of this Order, and become the custodian of the protected discovery, and  
28 shall then become responsible, upon conclusion of appellate and post-conviction proceedings, for

1 complying with the provisions set forth in paragraph 14. All members of the defense counsel, whether  
2 current or past counsel, are at all times subject to the Order and are not relieved by termination of  
3 representation or conclusion of the prosecution.

4 10. Defense counsel will store the Protected Material in a secure place, such as a locked  
5 office, and shall use reasonable care to ensure that it is not disclosed to third persons in violation of this  
6 agreement. To the extent any of the protected discovery, or any copies or reproductions thereof, are  
7 stored electronically, the protected discovery shall be stored on a password-protected or encrypted  
8 storage medium or device. Encryption keys shall be stored securely and not written on the storage  
9 media they unlock.

10 11. If defense counsel makes, or causes to be made, any further copies of any of the Protected  
11 Material, defense counsel will ensure that the following notation is inscribed on each copy made, if the  
12 confidentiality of the documents is otherwise not already present on the copied file(s) or hard copies:  
13 "CONFIDENTIAL – May Not Be Disseminated Except in Accordance With Court Protective Order."

14 12. If defense counsel releases custody of any of the Protected Material, or authorized copies  
15 thereof, to any person described in paragraph three, defense counsel shall provide such recipients with  
16 copies of this Order. The parties agree that defense counsel, defense investigators, and support staff  
17 shall not provide the Protected Material to the defendant or any other witness or copies of the Protected  
18 Material except for the limited situations identified in this Order.

19 13. If allowed by law, defense counsel shall advise government counsel of any subpoenas,  
20 document requests or claims for access to the Protected Material by third parties if defense counsel is  
21 considering disseminating any of the Protected Material to a third party in order that the government  
22 may take action to resist or comply with such demands as it may deem appropriate.

23 14. Defense counsel shall be responsible for advising the defendant, or her client, her  
24 employees and other members of the defense team, and defense witnesses of the contents of this Order.  
25 Defense counsel shall not provide or make available to any person described in paragraph five the  
26 Protected Material until that individual has been provided a copy of this Order by defense counsel.

27 15. Upon final disposition of this case, including exhaustion of direct and collateral appellate  
28 proceedings or the exhaustion of defense counsel's professional obligations as dictated by the California

1 State Bar, defense counsel shall return the protected discovery to the government, or certify in writing  
2 that the protected discovery has been destroyed, or, if defense counsel seeks to maintain the protected  
3 discovery in the defense counsel's files beyond the above time frame, seek modification of this  
4 provision from the Court. .

5 16. Nothing in this Order shall preclude a party from seeking a more restrictive or permissive  
6 protective order or other court order with regard to particular discovery items.

7 17. Defense counsel observes the right to file objections with the Court concerned the  
8 protected status of any material produced by the government, and to seek a less restrictive protective  
9 order, including an order requiring redactions in lieu of more restrictive measures, to ensure the  
10 defendant has the proper level of access to such material in preparing his defense. The contested  
11 protected materials shall be submitted in camera or under seal to the Court for evaluation, not publicly  
12 filed.

13 Respectfully Submitted,

14 Dated: August 11, 2025

ERIC GRANT  
United States Attorney

16 By: /s/ R. Alex Cárdenas  
17 R. ALEX CARDENAS  
18 Assistant United States Attorney

19 Dated: August 11, 2025

/s/ Shari G. Rusk  
20 SHARI G. RUSK  
21 Counsel for Defendant  
22 Esteban Xavier Monroy

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1 **[PROPOSED] FINDINGS AND ORDER**

2 The Court having read and considered the Stipulation and Joint Request for a Protective Order,  
3 which this Court incorporates by reference into this Order in full, hereby finds that GOOD CAUSE  
4 exists to enter the above Order.

5 IT IS SO FOUND AND ORDERED this 11th day of August, 2025.

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10 SEAN C. RIORDAN  
11 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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